

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 13: canceled

14. (currently amended) A steering mechanism comprising:

a housing;

a rack, which defines an axial direction and meshes with a pinion; and

a hydraulic servo-drive having a piston/cylinder unit comprising a cylinder, a piston, and a piston rod that extends in said axial direction, ~~wherein said rack is coupled to said cylinder or said piston rod, and~~ wherein said rack and said piston rod are parallel to one another in said axial direction and are spaced from one another in a direction transverse to said axial direction, and wherein the rack is fixedly connected to the cylinder in the axial direction.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein said cylinder carries a rotary slide valve.

18. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein free ends of said rack are encased by sleeves that enclose and outwardly seal a movement space of said rack.

19. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein free ends of said rack are encased by sliding sleeves or bellows that are adapted to free a space that is disposed axially adjacent to said rack.

20. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein a modular rotary slide valve is eccentrically secured to a frame that carries said steering mechanism.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, which is provided for a vehicle, and wherein said piston rod is mounted so as to be substantially unmovable relative to the vehicle.

23. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein a center take-off for tie rods that are to be actuated by said steering mechanism is secured directly to said cylinder.

24. (currently amended) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, which includes means for supplying hydraulic fluid to end faces of said piston rod for actuating said servo-drive.

25. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, which includes a guide rod, and wherein said guide rod, said rack, and said piston rod are parallel to and axially spaced from one another.

26. (previously presented) A steering mechanism according to claim 14, wherein tie rods are articulated to end faces of said piston rod.